



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE AGENTS ARREST SEXUAL PREDATOR FOR POSSESSING CHILD PORN**

*Manuel Macias was arrested yesterday after a year long investigation into his illegal on-line activities*

HOUSTON — A federal indictment against a man accused of distribution of child pornography was unsealed yesterday after his arrest here, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Manuel Macias, 29, was indicted May 4 by a federal grand jury on two counts of distributing child pornography, and several counts of possessing and receiving child porn on his home computer.

The federal indictment alleges that Macias used his computer to possess, receive and distribute extremely graphic pornographic images of children engaged in explicit sexual activity between Nov. 2004 and March 2005. The images included young prepubescent females, some as young as 6 years old, engaging in sexual conduct with adult men.

The indictment also alleges that Macias sent and received these graphic images of child porn using his computer in Nov. 2004.

"We must protect our children from these predators," said Bob Rutt, special agent-in-charge for ICE Houston. "We've made it an agency priority to stop these sexual predators from abusing and exploiting our children." Rutt heads the ICE Houston Office of Investigations which includes the greater Houston metropolitan area.

This arrest is part of a nationwide initiative known as Operation Predator. Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 5,500 individuals arrested nationwide, including 512 in Texas.

If convicted for possessing and distributing child pornography, Macias faces a mandatory sentence of 10 years in prison, and fines up to \$250,000.

ICE encourages anyone who wants to report suspicious activity of suspected child predators and suspicious activity through our toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*